Integrated Resource Plan
ROCKY-NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
Sub-Regional Plan

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

1982

EDMONTON

Alberta

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Resource Evaluation and Planning Division

ENR In-house Report Number: Dept/27

A limited number of copies of this document are available from:

Resource Planning Branch
Alberta Energy and Natural Resources
5th Floor, 9945 - 108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2C9
Telephone: (403) 427-3608

PLANNING TEAM DECISION SHEET

TEAM Rocky-North Saskatchewan NUMBER 3

TO Resource Integration Committee DATE August 19, 1982

ITEM

Resource Management Policy

DECISION/REQUEST

The Rocky-North Saskatchewan planning team requests Resource Integration Committee approval of the Resource Management Policy in order to proceed with the next stage of the planning process.

SIGNATURES

Jim Molnar, Alberta Forest Service,

Dave Christiansen, Fish and Wildlife Division,

Mary Penny, Mineral Resources Division,

Wayne Tedder, Public Lands Division,

Brian Fardoe, Resource Planning Branch

COMMENTS

RESOURCE INTEGRATION COMMITTEE
DECISION SHEET

DATE August 19, 1982

TO: Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Team

ITEM

Resource Management Policy

BACKGROUND/ATTACHMENTS

The Terms of Reference document was approved by the Resource Integration Committee in September, 1981. The Resource Integration Committee selected the policy direction for resource management in August 1982. Approval of the Resource Management Policy allows the planning team to proceed with the remaining steps of the planning process.

DECISION/DIRECTION/RECOMMENDATION

The Resource Integration Committee approves the Resource Management Policy, subject to the revisions indicated to Brian Fardoe at the August 19, 1982 meeting.

SIGNATURES

COMMENTS

Alberta Agriculture disagrees with the allocation to Multiple Use zoning, of those lands which have been identified through the planning process, as being suitable for agricultural use (approximately 74,000 acres). Alberta Agriculture strongly objects to the redesignation of approximately 4,800 acres of such land from the existing zoning of Agriculture to Multiple Use.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	THE PLANNING AREA	4
3.	POLICY AND PLANNING CONTEXT	7
3.1	Legislation and Associated Directives	7
3.2	A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes	8
3.3	A Coal Development Policy for Alberta	12
3.4	Rocky-Clearwater Management Overview	18
3.5	Brazeau Timber Development Area	18
4.	PLAN POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS	20
5.	BROAD RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	23
5.1	Water and Watershed Resources	23
5.2	Petroleum and Natural Gas Resources	24
5.3	Timber Resources	24
5.4	Wildlife Resources	25
5.5	Fisheries Resources	26
5.6	Recreational Resources	26
5.7	Forage Resources	27
5.8	Agricultural Resources	28
5.9	Ecological Resources	28
5.10	Historical Resources	28
5.11	Tourism Resources	28
5.12	Coal Resources	29
5.13	Metallic and Quarriable Mineral Resources	29
5.14	Surface Materials Resources	29
5.15	Access	29
6.	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY	30
6.1	Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit	30
6.2	North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit	37
6.3	Prairie Creek Planning Unit	46
6.4	Nordegg - Baptiste River Planning Unit	53
7.	CONCLUSION	60

LIST OF FIGURES

		Page
1	Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area	5
2	Brazeau Timber Development Area	19
3	Planning Units for the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area	21
4	Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit	31
5	North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit	38
6	Prairie Creek Planning Unit	47
7	Nordegg - Baptiste River Planning Unit	54
	Eastern Slopes Policy Zoning (1977)	Map pocket
	Resource Management Policy Zoning (1982)	Map pocket

LIST OF TABLES

1	Intents of the Eastern Slopes Policy Zones	10
2	Table of Permitted Activities by Land Use Zone	11
3	Provincial Goals and Regional Objectives	13

1. INTRODUCTION

A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes (Eastern Slopes Policy), approved by Cabinet in July, 1977, identified integrated resource management planning under a comprehensive interagency approach as the means for effective management of the resources of the Eastern Slopes region of Alberta. To implement this policy, the Resource Planning Branch of the Alberta Department of Energy and Natural Resources has been given the responsibility of coordinating the preparation of integrated resource management plans on a priority basis for agencies with resource management concerns for public lands and resources within designated planning areas.

In January, 1978 the Energy and Natural Resources/Recreation and Parks Interdepartmental Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee, acting upon a request from the Alberta Forest Service, identified the Rocky-Clearwater Forest as a priority for integrated resource management planning. In response to a directive from this Committee, the Rocky-Clearwater Management Overview (Overview) was initiated in April, 1978 and completed for approval by the Resource Integration Committee in May, 1980. The Overview provided a framework for integrated resource management planning in the Rocky-Clearwater region and established priorities for the completion of plans within this region.

The Overview identified the Rocky-North Saskatchewan area as the second priority for integrated resource management planning within the Rocky-Clearwater Forest. A plan for the Rocky-North Saskatchewan area was initiated by the Energy and Natural Resources/Recreation and Parks Interdepartmental Assistant Deputy Ministers Committee in June, 1980. A Terms of Reference document for the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Plan was prepared by an interdepartmental planning team and received approval from the Resource Integration Committee in September, 1981. The Terms of Reference presents a description of the planning area, the purpose of the plan, a review of existing resource management policy directions, major resource management concerns and issues, data collection responsibilities, a brief explanation of the decision making process and a proposed schedule for completion of the plan. The preparation and approval of the Terms of Reference document constituted the first stage of the planning process. This stage was followed by the initiation of data collection and analysis, which continues throughout the development of the plan.

Policy formulation was the next stage of the planning process as described in the Terms of Reference. A Resource Management Policy was developed for the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-regional Plan and is presented in this document and associated maps (map pocket). The document is organized into the following sections: a description of the planning area, a brief review of the existing policy and planning context for resource management, discussion of the plan's policy

policy formulation, a statement of broad resource management objectives for the planning area and presentation of the resource management policy including specific resource management objectives and zoning. Further refinement of the zoning contained in the Resource Management Policy may occur during later stages of the planning process. As an intermediate document, the Resource Management Policy provides direction to the planning team and acts as an interim statement of progress towards the final plan.

2. THE PLANNING AREA

The Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area, as shown on Figure 1, is located immediately to the north and west of the Town of Rocky Mountain House and covers a land area of approximately 6 500 km^2. It encompasses portions of the Nordegg, Baptiste and Upper North Saskatchewan river drainages and the Prairie Creek watershed. The boundary of the planning area is, generally speaking, as follows:

North - the north shore of the North Saskatchewan River from a point near Drayton Valley to the Brazeau River - west along the north shore of the Brazeau River to the mouth of the Nordegg River - west along the watershed divide between the Brazeau and Nordegg Rivers to the Forestry Trunk Road.

West - the height of land forming the headwaters of the Nordegg River which parallels the Forestry Trunk Road south from Grassy Mountain - southeast across Baldy Mountain and Coliseum Mountain and along the height of land between Deep Creek and Dutch Creek to Ram Lookout.

South - east along the height of land forming the northern limits of the North Ram River watershed to its confluence with

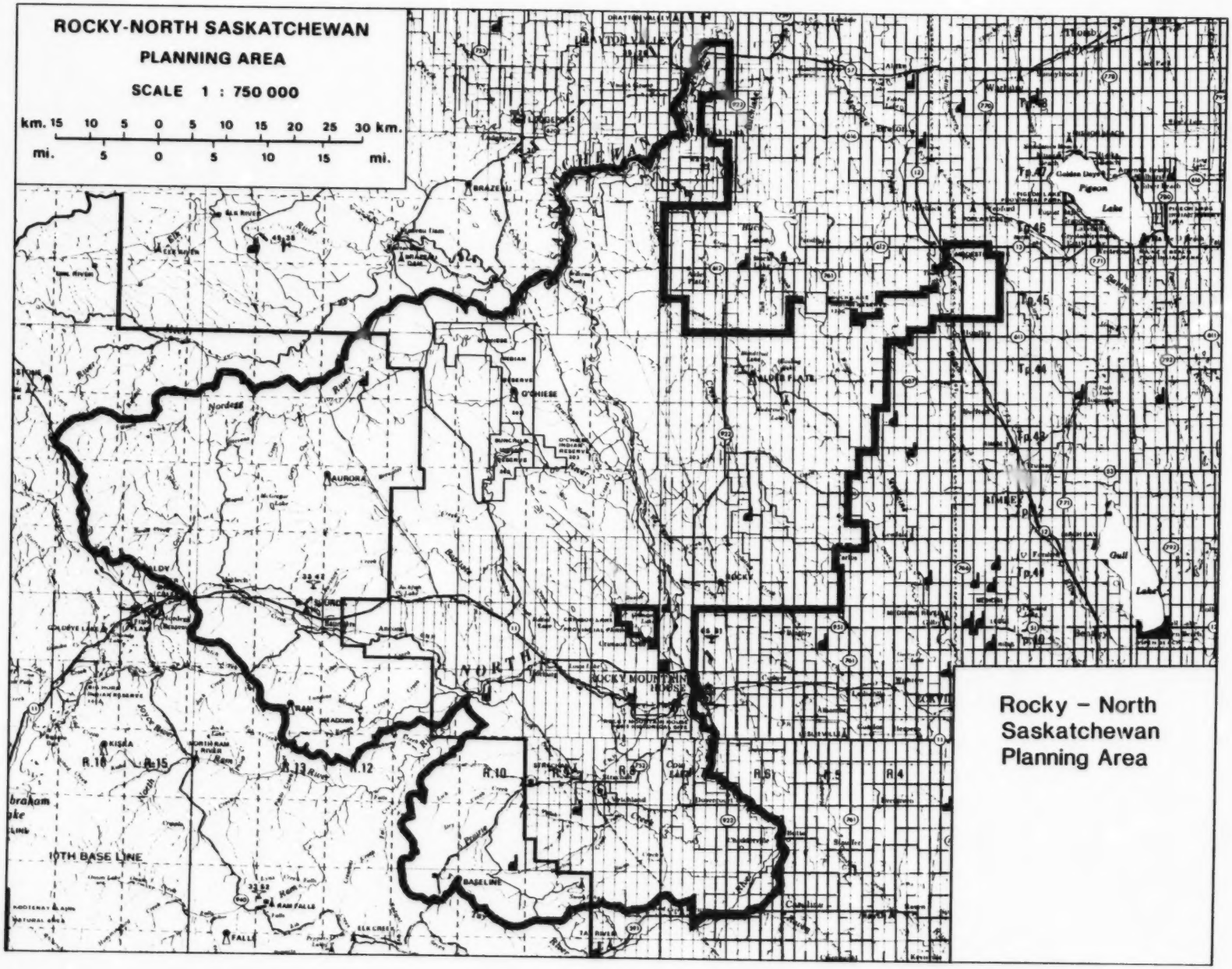
ROCKY-NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
PLANNING AREA
SCALE 1 : 750 000
km. 15 10 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 km.
mi. 5 0 5 10 15 mi.
Rocky – North
Saskatchewan
Planning Area

Figure 1. Rocky - North Saskatchewan Planning Area.

the North Saskatchewan River - south along the height of land which forms the headwaters of North Prairie, Lick, Dry and Prairie Creeks to Baseline Lookout - east along the height of land between the Tay River and Swan Creek to a point north of Phyllis Lake - south to the northern edge of Section 10, Township 36, Range 7, West of the 5th Meridian.

East - northeast from the above along the ROI forest management unit boundary to approximately Welch Creek - north and east following the legal survey lines to include Town Lake and vicinity but exclude the village of Winfield and the Buck Lake Indian Reserve No. 133C - east from the Buck Lake Reserve along the Rocky-Clearwater Forest boundary to Range 8 W5 - north along the Forest boundary to meet the northern study area boundary at a point on the North Saskatchewan River near the town of Drayton Valley.

The Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-regional Plan is bordered on the north by the Brazeau-Pembina Sub-regional Plan and on the south and west by the Nordegg - Red Deer River Sub-regional Plan. Integrated management plans have been completed for the Rocky Mountain House Grazing Reserve, which is entirely within the planning area, and for the Medicine Lake Grazing Reserve, which is partially within the planning area. The planning team recognizes the grazing reserve plans and will take direction from these plans, as appropriate.

3. POLICY AND PLANNING CONTEXT

Resource management activities in the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area are guided by numerous government directives including legislation, regulations and policies. These directions for resource management must be considered in the development of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Plan.

3.1 Legislation and Associated Directives

A variety of provincial Government agencies administer a range of legislation and associated regulations to manage resources throughout Alberta, including those within the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area. In addition to legislation and regulations, there are also governmental directives, such as orders-in-countil and ministerial orders, which affect resource management activities.

Approximately the western one-third of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area is within the Rocky Mountain Forest Reserve. The Forest Reserve was formally established by the Forest Reserves Act (1964) to provide for the conservation of forests and the maintenance of conditions favourable to an optimum water supply.

A large portion of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area is in the Green Area was established by Order-in-Council in 1948. The Green Area contains lands which are not available for settlement

or agricultural development other than grazing. Major realignment of the Green Area / White Area boundary generally occurs through development of an integrated resource management plan and minor realignment of the boundary occurs on an ongoing basis through negotiation among involved Government agencies.

3.2 A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes

A Policy for Resource Management of the Eastern Slopes provides guidelines and objectives for integrated resource management and planning for the entire Eastern Slopes Region including the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area. The overriding principles or objectives for the Eastern Slopes Policy are to protect the valuable water resources of the Eastern Slopes and provide for resource utilization in a manner consistent with principles of conservation and environmental protection. The Eastern Slopes Policy relies on regional land use zoning to designate large areas of land for varying degrees of protection, resource management and development. Under the Eastern Slopes Policy, a range of resource management objectives which can be achieved are defined for each of the following eight zones: (1) Prime Protection, (2) Critical Wildlife, (3) Special Use, (4) General Recreation, (5) Multiple use, (6) Agriculture, (7) Industrial and (8) Facility.

The Rocky-North Saskatchewan Plan utilizes the eight zoning categories defined in the Eastern Slopes Policy. Evaluation and modification ofthe existing zone boundaries (map pocket) occurred through the

planning process. The integrated resource management plan is more specific than the regional Eastern Slopes Policy in identifying areas for various resource uses. The general intents or objectives of the Eastern Slopes Policy zones, as interpreted by the planning team, are presented in Table 1. A list of resource use activities which are permitted, restricted or prohibited within each zone is presented in the Eastern Slopes Policy as a matrix (Table 2). Rather than creating an entirely new zoning scheme for the small area outside the Eastern Slopes Policy but within the planning area, the Eastern Slopes Policy zoning categories were used. Zoning does not apply to privately owned lands in the planning area.

The recent administrative review of the Eastern Slopes Policy has produced four changes to the matrix of resource use activities contained in the 1977 Eastern Slopes Policy. Domestic grazing and petroleum and natural gas exploration and development were changed by the Cabinet from "not permitted" to "restricted" designations in the General Recreation zone. These two changes were announced by the Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife in May, 1982. Changes of mineral exploration and development in the Critical Wildlife zone and logging in the Facility zone from "not permitted" to "restricted" designations have been approved by the Resource Integration Committee, subject to Cabinet ratification.

In addition, the administrative review has resulted in the clarification and production of proposed provincial goals and regional

TABLE 1

PLANNING TEAM INTERPRETATION OF THE
INTENTS OF THE EASTERN SLOPES POLICY ZONES

#	Zone	INTENT OF THE ZONE[1]
1	Prime Protection	To preserve environmentally sensitive terrain and valuable aesthetic resources.
2	Critical Wildlife	To protect specific fish and wildlife populations by protecting aquatic and terrestrial habitat that is essential to the maintenance of those populations.
3	Special Use	To recognize historical resources, scientific research areas and lands which have unique management requirements or legislative status or which can not be accomodated elsewhere.
4	General Recreation	To retain a variety of natural environments to serve as a focus for a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.
5	Multiple Use	To provide for the management and development of the full range of available resources, while meeting long term objectives for watershed management and environmental protection.
6	Agriculture	To designate lands which are presently utilized or are considered suitable for cultivation or improved grazing.
7	Industrial	To recognize existing or approved industrial operations.
8	Facility	To recognize existing or approved settlement and commercial development areas.

1. The concept of integrated resource management applies to each of the eight zones.

Table 1. Planning Team Interpretation of the Intents of the Eastern Slopes Policy zones.

TABLE OF PERMITTED ACTIVITIES BY LAND USE ZONE

ACTIVITY / ZONE	1 Prime Protection	2 Critical Wildlife	3 Special Use	4 General Recreation	5 Multiple use	6 Agriculture	7 Industrial	8 Facility
Non-Mechanical Recreation	/	/	R	/	/	/	R	/
Fishing	/	/	R	/	/	/	R	/
Hunting	/	/	R	R	/	/	R	X
Non-Motorized Trails	R	R	R	/	/	/	R	/
Off Highway Vehicle Activity	X	R	R	R	/	/	/	/
Primitive Camping	R	R	R	/	/	/	X	X
Serviced Camping	X	X	R	/	/	R	X	/
Intensive Recreation	R	X	R	/	/	X	X	/
Scientific Study	/	R	R	R	/	/	/	/
Trapping	/	R	R	R	/	/	X	X
Logging	X	R	R	R	/	/	/	R
Cultivation	X	X	R	X	R	/	X	R
Domestic Grazing	X	R	R	R	/	/	X	R
Petroleum and Natural Gas Exploration & Development	X	R	R	R	/	/	/	R
Mineral Exploration & Development	X	R	R	X	/	/	/	X
Coal Exploration & Development	X	R	R	R	/	/	/	X
Transportation & Utility Corridors	R	R	R	R	/	/	/	/
Commercial Development	X	X	R	R	R	R	X	/
Industrial Development	X	X	R	X	/	R	/	R
Residential	X	X	R	X	R	/	R	/

/ Permitted Uses - Uses that will be allowed under normal guidelines and land use regulations.

X Not Permitted - Uses that are not compatible with the intent or capabilities of a land use zone.

R Restricted - Uses that may be compatible under certain circumstances and stricter than normal controls.

Table 2. Table of Permitted Activities by Land Use Zone.

objectives for resource management which may be included in the Eastern Slopes Policy. These provide additional direction for resource management in the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area and have received preliminary approval from the Resource Integration Committee. These provincial goals and regional objectives are presented in Table 3.

3.3 A Coal Development Policy for Alberta

The entire Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area is categorized under A Coal Development Policy for Alberta (Coal Policy). This policy, approved by Cabinet in June, 1976, provides a strategy for the development of coal deposits in Alberta. Under the Coal Policy, exploration and development of coal deposits are permitted only under strict control to ensure environmental protection and satisfactory reclamation of any disturbed land. The western portion of the planning area is zoned as Category 2 where "limited coal exploration is permitted under strict control" and commercial development is generally restricted to underground or in- situ mining. The eastern portion of the planning area is zoned as Category 3 where "coal exploration is permitted under the normal approval procedures" and commercial development is restricted. The eastern fringe of the planning area includes lands which are zoned as Category 4 where exploration and development of coal resources are permitted under normal approval procedures.

A Coal Development Policy for Alberta is currently being reviewed and the categorization of lands for coal exploration and development may change. The Rocky-North Saskatchewan Plan recognizes this possibility and will take direction from the new Coal Policy as appropriate.

TABLE 3

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL GOALS AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES

Resource Values	Provincial Goals	Regional Objectives
Watershed	To ensure a continuous reliable supply of clean water to meet the needs of Albertans and interprovincial users now and in the future.	To manage and develop natural resources in the region to maintain or increase the volume of water yield and the natural timing of surface and sub-surface discharge. To manage headwaters in the region to maintain the recharge capabilities and protect critical fisheries habitat. To manage the South Saskatchewan River watersheds intensively to meet a high demand for water stability. To manage the North Saskatchewan and Athabasca River watersheds in order to provide for future increase in water yield through intensive management to maintain natural flow.
Wildlife	To optimize the opportunities for the public to interact with the wildlife resources in a positive manner.	Big Game: Elk (Wapiti) - To ensure elk populations are maintained throughout the region in accordance with habitat availability. This will allow for an increase in elk populations substantially north of the Bow River and a regional goal of 30 000 elk allowing for a supply sufficient for the growing demand into the next few decades. Moose - To increase the moose population to the carrying capacity of known habitat, particularly in the easterly portions of the region. Emphasis should be placed in the southern area due both to the high hunting demands as well as the opportunity of achieving higher population associated with forest management areas. Deer - While-tailed -- To maintain a minimum of 10 000 along the eastern fringe of the region. - Mule -- To increase the mule deer population throughout the region to a minimum of 50 000 head with half of the objective being achieved south of the Bow River. Caribou - To stabilize and increase declining caribou populations throughout the region to a level where species preservation in Alberta is assured through protection and proper management of current and historically important range. The desired increases in population along the Eastern Slopes are at least 2000 to 3000 animals. Bighorn Sheep - To maintain existing populations of approximately 5000 bighorn sheep through protection and enhancement of known critical winter ranges scattered throughout the region. Mountain Goats - To ensure a recovery of mountain goat populations through protection and management of known habitat scattered throughout the sub-alpine and alpine areas. Bear - Black -- To maintain the existing population of black bears by retaining a minimum of 30 percent forest cover over the region. - Grizzly -- To maintain and protect existing grizzly populations and habitat particularly north of the Bow River. Populations of 400 north of the Bow River and 100 South of it would meet demands for this century.

TABLE 3

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL GOALS AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES
(continued)

Resource Values	Provincial Goals	Regional Objectives
Wildlife		Furbearers: To maintain the variety and abundance of furbearer populations through management of habitat in the region. Upland Game: To maintain the existing population of upland game bird species through habitat management in the region. Raptors: To maintain the existing populations of raptor species through mitigation of disturbances to known populations and critical habitat in the region. Songbirds: To maintain the existing variety and distribution of songbirds found in the region. Threatened Species: To protect and enhance the populations of known threatened species such as cougar and wolverine to a level of self-maintenance through mitigation of disturbances to known populations and critical habitat.
Fisheries	To provide the optimum mix of social and economic benefits consistent with the maintenance of healthy fish communities.	To protect aquatic habitat and ensure high water quality in the region. To establish optimum instream flow requirements for fish through modification of land/water use practices. To recognize the sport fishery as the principle use of the fishery resources in the Eastern Slopes. To maintain naturally reproducing Salmonid (trout, char and whitefish) populations in the region and to expand these fish resources into presently vacant aquatic habitat. To supplement or enhance game fish stocks in the region by stocking when natural reproduction does not occur or is limited.
Recreation	To provide and facilitate the provision of a range of outdoor recreation opportunities in Alberta.	Camping: Parks - To maintain a diverse range of medium-size resource based recreation developments such as Provincial Parks and Forest Recreation Areas within weekend driving range of most of the population to facilitate a foothills and sub-alpine recreational experience.

TABLE 3

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL GOALS AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES
(continued)

Resource Values	Provincial Goals	Regional Objectives
Recreation		Auto Access - To increase the number of formalized intensive camping opportunities by expanding existing facilities in areas north of the Canmore Corridor. Group Camping - To increase group camping facilities throughout the Eastern Slopes. Remote Camping - To increase the number of camping sites accessible by hiking, horse and off-highway vehicles. Trails: Land Based - To increase the number of kilometres of long distance trails in the region for hiking, skiing, horse and off-highway vehicle use. Water Based - To designate and manage water based trails to provide opportunities for a variety of activities such as canoeing, power boating, kayaking and rafting. Day Use: To maintain existing extensive style day use sites, e.g. rest stops, picnic areas and viewing points, in the Grande Prairie, Edson and Rocky/Clearwater Forests. Visitor Services: To increase the number of self-guiding historical and resource management oriented trails at existing destination camping facilities. To increase the preservation of representative and unique features of natural and/or cultural significance for interpretation, education and appreciation throughout the Eastern Slopes region and particularly in the alpine and sub-alpine ecological region. Wilderness: To maintain within the Eastern Slopes, areas of wilderness or primitive character. Water Access Points: To develop and manage a range of facilities and services to provide access to various water bodies throughout the region.
Forestry	To provide an optimum continuous contribution to the economy by the forest-based industries consistent with sound environmental practices and to recognize other uses of the forest.	Bow/Crow Forest: Crowsnest Portion - To maintain a sustained yield timber supply to established sawmilling facilities and for local public use. - To increase the sustained yield timber supply available to Quota Holders and the general public through an expanded permanent forest land base consistent with optimal forest land allocation.

TABLE 3

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL GOALS AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES
(continued)

Resource Values	Provincial Goals	Regional Objectives
Forestry		- To ensure a healthy forest environment in this prime recretional area and provide a reasonable supply to timber on a sustained yield basis to wood utilizing facilities and the general public on a short term commitment basis. The high standard of harvest operations will ensure maintenance of aesthetics and a quality environment for the prime use of recreation. Northern Bow Portion (Ghost, Little Red Deer and Burnt Timber River Areas) - To maintain a sustained yield timber supply to established wood utilizing facilities and for local public use. - To increase the sustained yield timber supply available to Timber Quota Holders and/or Forest Management Agreement holders and the general public through an expanded permanent forest land base consistent with optimal forest land allocation. Rocky/Clearwater Forest, Edson Forest, and Grande Prairie Forest - To maintain a sustained yield timber supply to the established wood utilizing facilities and for local public use and increase the sustained yield timber supply available to Timber Quota Holders and/or Forest Management Agreement Holders and for local use consistent with optimal forest land use allocation.
Rangeland	To provide a properly managed *forage base* of the rangelands for use by wildlife and domestic livestock in conjunction with other land uses.	To maintain rangelands in good condition through sound range management practices and coordination of the management of rangeland resources with other users. To increase rangelands where forage productivity has declined from the encroachment of unproductive bush species by removal of the brush and establishing productive forage species. To increase and improve rangeland availability and capability through more intensive range management. To consider other land uses besides wildlife and domestic grazing in the management of the rangelands.
Agriculture	To encourage the optimal development of the renewable resources for production, processing and marketing of agricultural products for an expanding domestic and export market.	To ensure the continued viability of existing livestock operations in the region through the use of public lands to sustain the current levels of domestic livestock numbers. To provide for the cultivation of lands that are suitable for production of annual and forage crops. To expand domestic livestock grazing opportunities on public lands in that part of the region north of the Trans-Canada Highway to counterbalance the conversion of other lands in the province to cereal and oilseed production.

TABLE 3

PROPOSED PROVINCIAL GOALS AND REGIONAL OBJECTIVES
(continued)

Resource Values	Provincial Goals	Regional Objectives
Tourism	To encourage the provision of a diverse range of private and public sector tourism facilities, attractions, accommodation types and services capable of meeting increasing demands for leisure and business-related opportunities.	To encourage the provision of a wide variety of tourism opportunities and services in the Eastern Slopes. To encourage the development of tourism opportunities and services capable of operation on a year-round basis. To ensure the maintenance of the environmental quality and aesthetics of the Eastern Slopes, while expanding tourism opportunities in the area through: - Grouping tourism facilities and services where feasible (recognizing the need for unique siting and scenic requirements of particular types of facilities. - Ensuring the careful design of facilities to limit environmental impact; and - Encouraging environmentally conscious operation of facilities and services after their completion. To ensure the provision of an adequate land base for tourism activities by maintaining the high aesthetic quality and thus maintaining the value of the tourism experience. To support the provision of tourism opportunities and services by the private sector wherever feasible and to minimize the occurrence of public sector competition with private sector developments for specific tourism markets.
Non-Renewable Resources	To encourage exploration and development of mineral resources to meet the needs of Albertans now and in the future.	Coal: To maintain income and job benefits from coal resources in the Eastern Slopes through basin-by-basin development, with each basin being developed to minimize infrastructure costs. Oil and Natural Gas: To maintain income and job benefits from oil and natural gas resources throughout the region. Quarriable and Metallic Minerals: To maintain income and job benefits from quarriable and metallic mineral resources in the region. Aggregate Resources: To maintain the present and future availability of aggregate resources in the region.
Archaeological/ Ecological/ Historical Resources	To ensure that significant features of archaeological, ecological or historical value are identified, protected and managed for scientific, educational and recreational benefits now and in the future.	To protect both representative and unique areas of natural or cultural provincial significance for the recreational, scientific and educational use of Albertans.

3.4 Rocky-Clearwater Management Overview

The Rocky-Clearwater Management Overview (ENR Report No. 122) was approved by the Resource Integration Committee in May, 1980. The appropriate development strategy or theme for the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Plan, as stated in the Overview, is a "multiple use emphasis whereby use of the area for a wide range of activities will be optimized and existing / potential conflicts will be minimized". The Overview recommends a focus on resource utilization for the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Plan and supports the long term resource management priority of renewable resources over non-renewable resources as stated in the Eastern Slopes Policy.

3.5 Brazeau Timber Development Area

Approximately eighty percent of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area is within the proposed Brazeau Timber Development Area. The remainder of the Timber Development Area is contained within the Nordegg-Red Deer River Sub-Regional Plan and the Brazeau-Pembina Sub-Regional Plan (Figure 2). The uncommitted timber resources in this area are some of the best in Alberta and proposals for development of this timber are currently being considered by the Alberta Government. Public hearings for the Brazeau Timber Development Area are scheduled for August of 1982.

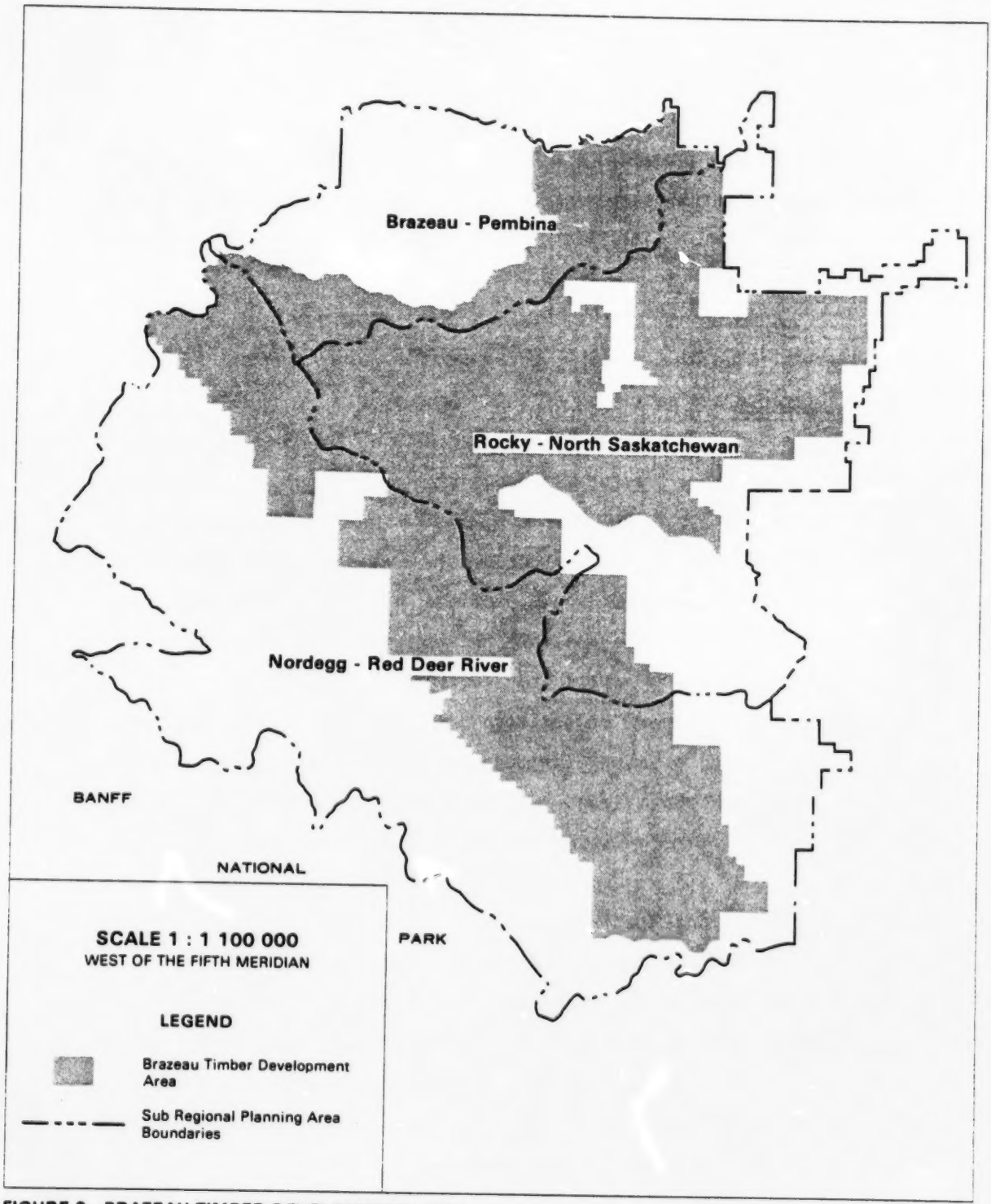

FIGURE 2. BRAZEAU TIMBER DEVELOPMENT AREA

4. PLAN POLICY FORMULATION PROCESS

This section presents a brief description of the process used in formulating resource management policy for the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Sub-regional Plan. The planning team proceeded in the following manner:

(i) established the planning area and the policy context (Terms of Reference and section 3 of this document).

(ii) collected and synthesized resource data in the general categories of capability, present use, potential and demand.

(iii) stated the broad resource management objectives for the planning area (section 5 of this document). Management objectives for particular resources were provided by the Alberta Government agencies that are responsible for management of those resources.

(iv) defined planning units to facilitate further definition of resource management objectives in a geographic or spatial sense. The planning area was divided into the following four planning units: (1) Rose Creek-Red Deer River (2) North Saskatchewan River (3) Nordegg-Baptiste River and (4) Prairie Creek (Figure 3).

(iv) developed more specific resource management objectives for the individual planning units within the context of the broad resource management objectives, which apply to the entire planning area. The degree of definition or refinement of objectives varied among resource management agencies, depending upon factors such as available information and the allocation of manpower and financial resources by each agency.

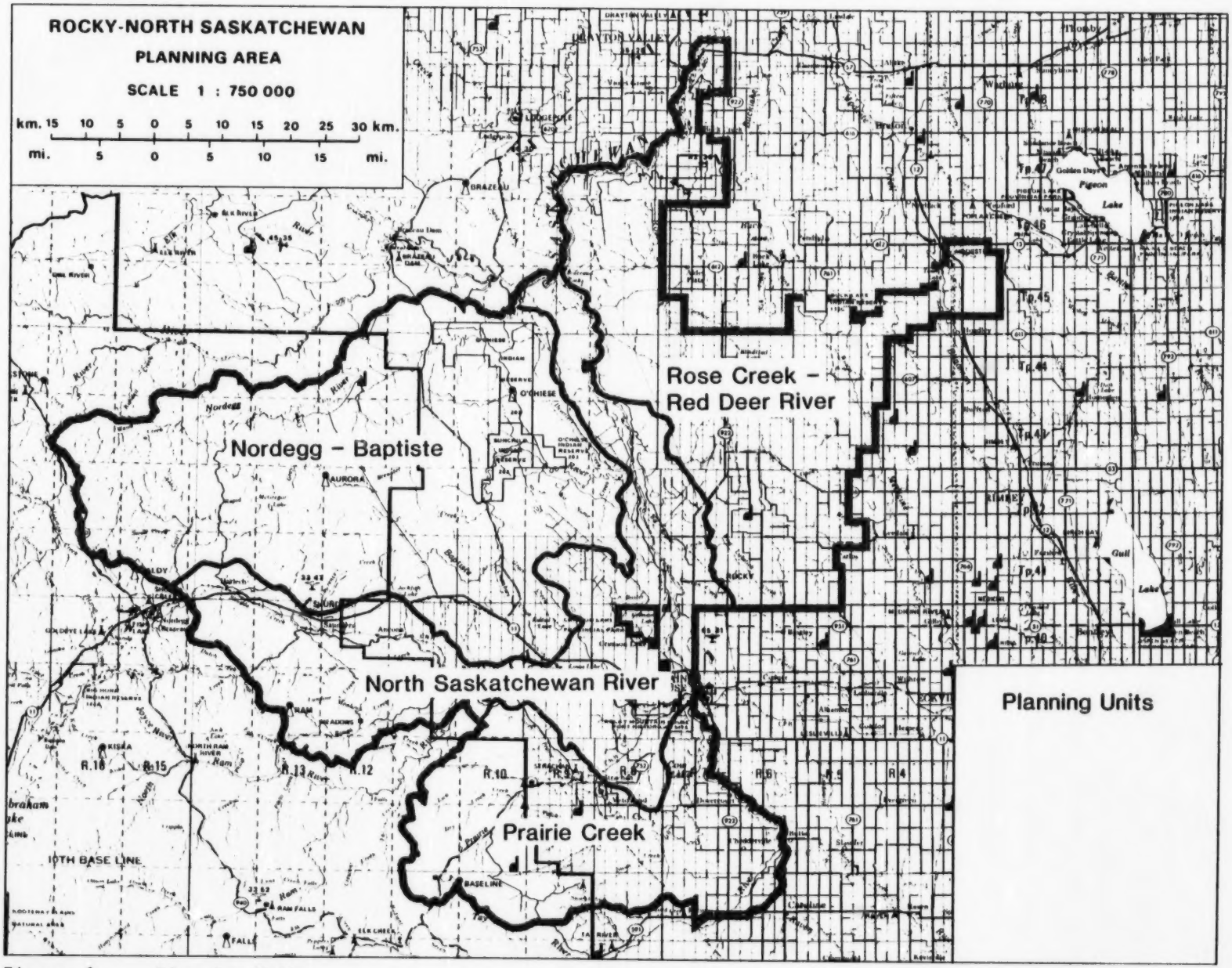
ROCKY-NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
PLANNING AREA
SCALE 1 : 750 000
km. 15 10 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 km.
mi. 5 0 5 10 15 mi.
Rose Creek – Red Deer River
Nordegg – Baptiste
North Saskatchewan River
Prairie Creek
Planning Units

Figure 3. Planning Units

(vi) refined the spatial and resource use aspects of the resource management objectives by utilizing the Eastern Slopes Policy zoning categories and resource use matrix. The geographic locations of the zones were realigned to support the resource management objectives. Significant differences between the 1977 Eastern Slopes Policy zoning and the new zoning configuration (map pocket) reflect the refinement of objectives based on new and more detailed resource information. The new zoning configuration should allow achievement of stated resource management objectives to a level which is acceptable to the involved agencies. Further examination of information and objectives may indicate the need for additional refinement of the zone boundaries during the next stage of the planning process.

5. BROAD RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Broad resource management objectives for the entire Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area are stated in this section of the document. Objectives have been expressed in relation to particular resources and are not identified with specific agencies, although many represent the resource management mandates of the involved agencies. No priority is intended or implied by the sequence of the objectives.

5.1 Water and Watershed Resources

To maintain and/or improve the quality, quantity and flow regime of water resources. Major components of this objective are:

(a) preserving the inherent productivity of the land through soil conservation practices,
(b) minimizing erosion associated with surface disturbance and vegetation removal in close proximity to water courses,
(c) maintaining the integrity of natural stream channels,
(d) maintaining adequate water volumes in major rivers to ensure proper dilution of downstream pollution and
(e) minimizing flooding of downstream areas.

To provide for the present and future use of water resources by onstream and downstream users including hydro-electric power developments, domestic users, industrial users, recreationists and fish and wildlife populations.

5.2 Petroleum and Natural Gas Resources

To encourage the orderly exploration and development of petroleum and natural gas resources in a manner that is compatible with environmental considerations.

To maintain the opportunity for surface access in order that the private sector may develop and assess the potential of petroleum and natural gas resources.

5.3 Timber Resources

To maintain a high quality forest which provides a sustained yield supply of timber. Major components of this objective include:

(a) increasing the level of productivity of wood fibre for commercial use through more intensive forest management practices,
(b) maintaining or increasing the amount of land available for sustained yield timber production,
(c) protecting the forest from damage by fire, insects and disease,
(d) reclaiming and reforesting disturbed areas and
(e) maintaining or creating an optimal vegetation mosaic to meet the needs of all forest resource users.

To provide for maximum utilization of the sustainable annual allowable cut of both coniferous and deciduous wood fibre resources to meet existing commitments and future timber development requirements.

5.4 Wildlife Resources

To maintain and/or increase natural wildlife populations. This would include maintaining or increasing populations of ungulates, furbearers, birds and rare wildlife species. More specific objectives which apply throughout the planning area are:

(a) to increase elk, moose and deer populations and

(b) to maintain populations of wolf, bear and semi-aquatic furbearers at acceptable levels.

To maintain and/or increase the quality and quantity of suitable aquatic and terrestrial habitat required to support wildlife populations at optimal densities. This would include:

(a) protecting habitat areas and migratory routes which are critical for the survival of specific wildlife populations. Specific habitat areas to be protected include all natural mineral licks and sites required by rare wildlife species,

(b) enhancing or creating wildlife habitat in appropriate locations,

(c) maintaining or increasing the total annual production of forbs and deciduous species in all areas for the production of wildlife and

(d) minimizing disturbance of wildlife populations during sensitive time periods.

To maintain and/or increase opportunities for recreational, domestic and commercial use of wildlife resources. This would include:

(a) maintaining or increasing the level of hunting and

(b) maintaining the existing level of commercial trapping.

5.5 Fisheries Resources

To maintain and/or increase natural fish populations and establish new populations of native or exotic species in suitable locations.

To maintain and/or increase the quality and quantity of aquatic habitat needed to support fish populations at optimal densities. This would include:

(a) protecting habitat and migratory routes which are critical for the survival of specific fish populations. Specific habitat areas to be protected include spawning, overwintering and rearing areas and

(b) protecting lakes with fish stocking potential.

To maintain and/or increase opportunities for recreational use of fisheries resources.

5.6 Recreational Resources

To maintain and/or increase the quality and quantity of a broad range of recreational and leisure opportunities, primarily to meet the present and future needs of the residents of Central Alberta. This would include:

(a) providing resource oriented, dispersed, extensive recreation opportunities including camping, day-use, trails (land and water) and interpretative programs in wildland and high quality natural settings,

(b) providing for the development of facility-oriented recreational opportunities including recreational cottage subdivisions and

(c) protecting areas with high recreational potential.

To maintain and/or increase the level of use of recreational resources. A major component of this objective is to ensure the provision of adequate access to recreational resources for formal and informal groups.

5.7 Forage Resources

To increase the quantity and quality of forage resources. Components of this objective are:

(a) maintaining and/or improving forage production and range condition on existing and potential grazing areas and

(b) maintaining or increasing the amount of public land available for forage production.

To maintain and/or increase the level of grazing by wildlife and domestic livestock.

5.8 Agricultural Resources

To make suitable lands available for agricultural development.

To increase the level of cultivation on suitable land.

5.9 Ecological Resources

To preserve selected unique or representative natural ecosystems or features.

To provide for the recreational, scientific and educational use of ecological resources.

5.10 Historical Resources

To protect historical resources (historic, prehistoric and palaeontological) from impacts associated with development.

To provide for scientific, educational and recreational use of historical resources.

5.11 Tourism Resources

To promote development of parts of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area as a year-round travel destination area.

To ensure the continuation of existing tourism operations to meet the recreational and social needs of residents and visitors to the area.

To provide opportunities for the private sector to participate in developments which cater to the needs of the users of the area.

5.12 Coal Resources

To provide for the orderly exploration and development of coal resources in accordance with A Coal Development Policy for Alberta.

5.13 Metallic and Quarriable Mineral Resources

To maintain the opportunity for surface access in order that mineral resources may be developed and potential assessed.

5.14 Surface Materials Resources

To provide for the orderly exploration and development of surface materials, including sand, gravel, clay and marl, in a manner that is compatible with environmental considerations.

5.15 Access

To coordinate the development of access to minimize duplication of effort and expense and to minimize the negative effects on various resources and users.

To meet the access requirements of resource users.

6. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

This section of the document is organized according to the four planning units which are presented in Figure 3. A general description, specific resource management objectives and the locations of zones are provided for each planning unit as part of the Resource Management Policy for the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Plan.

6.1 Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit

6.1.1 General Description of the Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit

The Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit is an area of approximately 1640 km^2 in the northeastern sector of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area (see Figure 3). The major water courses in the unit are the North Saskatchewan, Blindman and Medicine Rivers, and Rose and Washout Creeks. Medicine, Blind-Trail, Cranberry and Gosling Lakes are located in the central portion of the planning unit and Town Lake is in the northeast corner. The majority of the planning unit is within the Boreal Foothills ecoregion which represents a transition between the mainly deciduous Boreal Mixedwood ecoregion and the mainly coniferous Boreal Uplands ecoregion. Forest cover is dominated by deciduous species and consists of mixedwood stands of aspen, balsam poplar, white birch, lodgepole pine, white spruce and black spruce. Scattered organic areas are found throughout the planning unit. Major physiographic features are the Brazeau Plain in the northwest and the Buck Lake Upland in the eastern and southern portion of the planning unit.

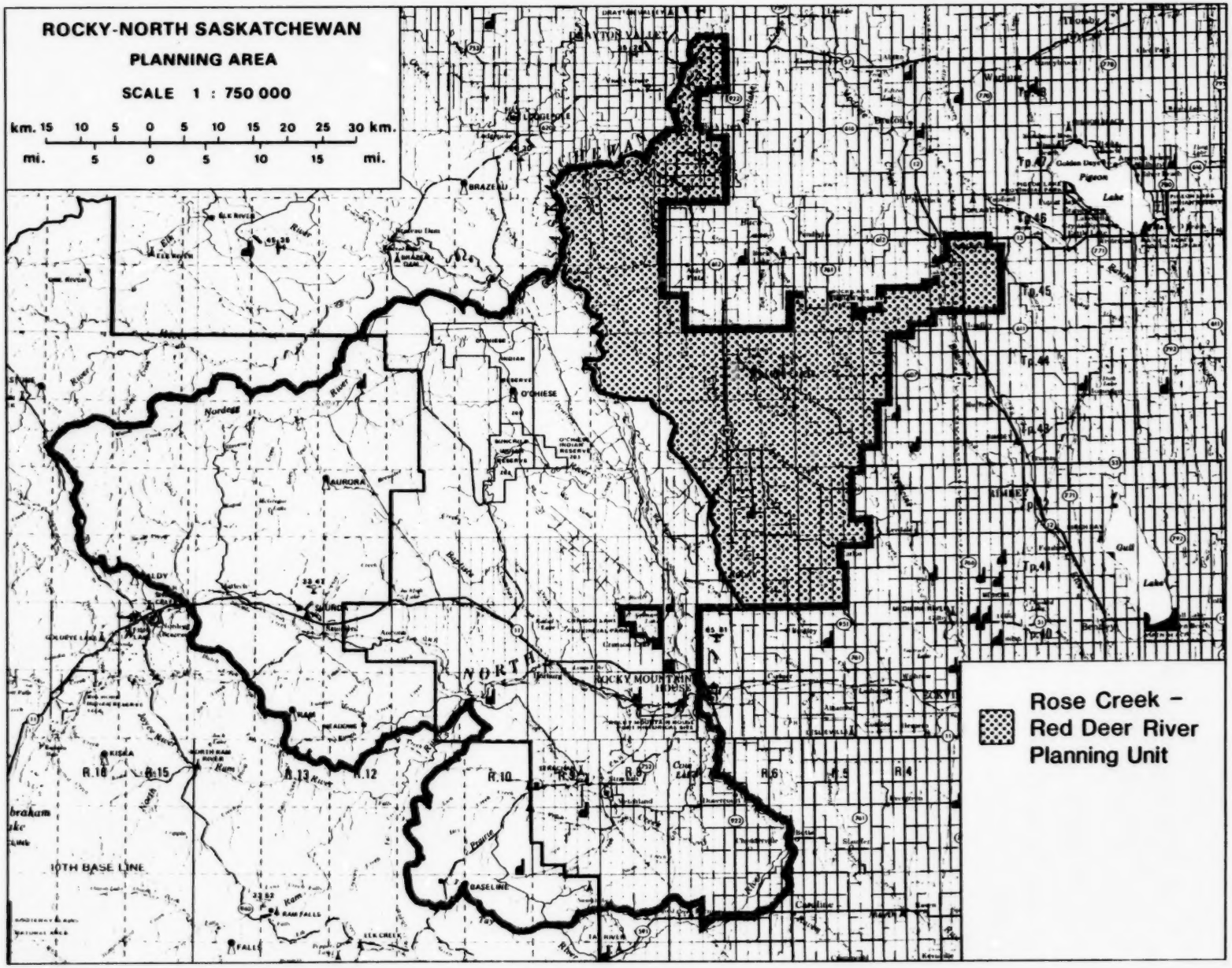

Figure 4. Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit

6.1.2 Resource Management Objectives for the Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit

The general intent for resource management in the Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit is:

To allow utilization of the full range of available resources with emphasis on petroleum and natural gas exploration and development and timber harvesting while recognizing watershed and other environmental considerations.

The broad resource management objectives, which are stated in Section 5, apply throughout the entire planning area. For brevity, they have not been repeated with those resource management objectives which are specific to the Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit.

Resource management objectives have the potential to conflict in many ways depending upon where, when and how they are expected to be achieved. No priority is intended or implied by the order of the following resource management objectives.

Water Resources

To maintain or improve water quality by:

a) minimizing the amount of land clearing, especially in river valleys,
b) minimizing contact between development activities and streams,
c) reducing or eliminating the negative effects of activities occuring on private and public lands in the White Area and
d) more intensive management of the watersheds of this planning unit.

To monitor water resources.

Timber Resources

To provide an optimum Long Term Allowable cut on a sustained yield basis for that portion of the planning unit which is within the boundaries of the proposed Brazeau Timber Development Area.

To provide for liquidation cutting of timber resources on public lands in the White Area as demand warrants. Merchantable timber should be allowed to mature before cutting.

To increase the amount of land available for sustained yield timber production.

Wildlife Resources

To minimize wildlife depredation problems in intensive agricultural areas while maintaining the level of recreational use of these species (wolves, deer and elk).

To protect wildlife populations on the Rocky Mountain House Grazing Reserve by minimizing mechanical harassment.

To protect wildlife habitat by minimizing the detrimental effects associated with rural subdivisions.

Fisheries Resources

To protect spawning and rearing areas for northern pike in the lower reaches of Rose and Washout Creeks.

To maintain or enhance the fisheries production potential of the following lakes:

(a) Open Creek Reservoir and

(b) Medicine Lake

Recreational Resources

To provide outdoor recreational opportunities for camping and year-round traversing activities in the Medicine Lake and Open Creek Dam areas to accommodate rising levels of recreational use.

Forage Resources

To maintain the level of natural forage production presently available for grazing by domestic livestock and wildlife.

To increase the level of improved forage production where potential and demand exist.

Agricultural Resources

To develop cultivation on land with relatively high capability for crop production. Although such lands are present within the planning unit, the objective of developing large areas of suitable lands for cultivation may not be achievable, in recognition of the possible commitment of these same lands to timber production. Further investigation of the agricultural potential of these areas is planned.

Ecological Resources

To protect ecological resources which have been identified at the following locations:

(a) near Lloyd Creek

(b) near the confluence of Washout Creek and the North Saskatchewan River,

(c) along the east shore of the North Saskatchewan River to the south of Drayton Valley,

(d) near Welch Creek and

(e) near Anderson Creek.

6.1.3 Zoning for the Rose Creek - Red Deer River Planning Unit

The existing and revised zoning configurations for the Rose Creek-Red Deer River Planning Unit can be seen on the zoning maps for the entire Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area (map pocket). The revised configuration should allow achievement of the stated resource management objectives to varying degrees. The rationale and locations for the zones are:

Critical Wildlife - in the following locations for the indicated reasons:

(a) riparian areas along the North Saskatchewan River, Rose Creek and associated tributaries to protect ungulate winter range and migratory routes.

(b) large area of mixed hummocky moraine and organic deposits in the vicinity of Tp 44 - R5 - W5, to protect ungulate winter habitat and

(c) smaller scattered areas of mixed organic and morainal materials to protect ungulate winter range.

Special Use - established Natural Areas along the eastern edge of the planning unit within the following townships; Tp 47 to 49 - R7, Tp 46 - R3, Tp 44 - R4 and Tp 42 - R5, all W5, to recognize the unique management requirements of these areas and allow for protection of ecological resources.

General Recreation - the area of the D-reservation on the northeastern shore of Medicine Lake to allow continued recreational use and development of recreational facilities.

Multiple Use - the portions of the planning unit which are outside of Critical Wildlife, Special Use, General Recreation, Agriculture and Industrial zones to allow for a broad range of resource utilization.

Agriculture - small scattered parcels of relatively high capability land along the northern, eastern and southern edges of the planning unit to allow improved grazing or cultivation.

Industrial - in SE 17 -Tp 42 - R6 - W5 to accommodate an existing gas plant.

6.2 North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit

6.2.1 General Description of the North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit

The North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit consists of 1630 km^2 stretching across the central part of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area (see Figure 4). The major water bodies in the unit are the North Saskatchewan River, Shunda, Rough, Cow, Meadows, Trout and Lundine Creeks and Crimson, Twin and Cow Lakes. This planning unit spans three ecoregions. The eastern portion of the unit is within the Boreal Foothills ecoregion and the western one-third of the unit is within the Boreal Uplands ecoregion. As previously mentioned, the Boreal Foothills ecoregion is characterized by mixedwood forest cover with aspen dominating. Lodgepole pine replaces aspen as the dominant tree species as one moves west into the higher elevation Boreal Uplands. The Boreal Uplands ecoregion is characterized by extensive closed canopy coniferous forests composed of lodgepole pine, spruce (white and black) and sub-alpine fir. Small areas of the Brazeau Range along the western edge of the planning unit are within the Subalpine ecoregion which is generally characterized by open coniferous forest and low shrub-grassland. The North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit includes portions of the following physiographic units: the Brazeau Plain, Crimson Lake Plain, Shunda Benchland and a small area of Rocky Mountain Foothills.

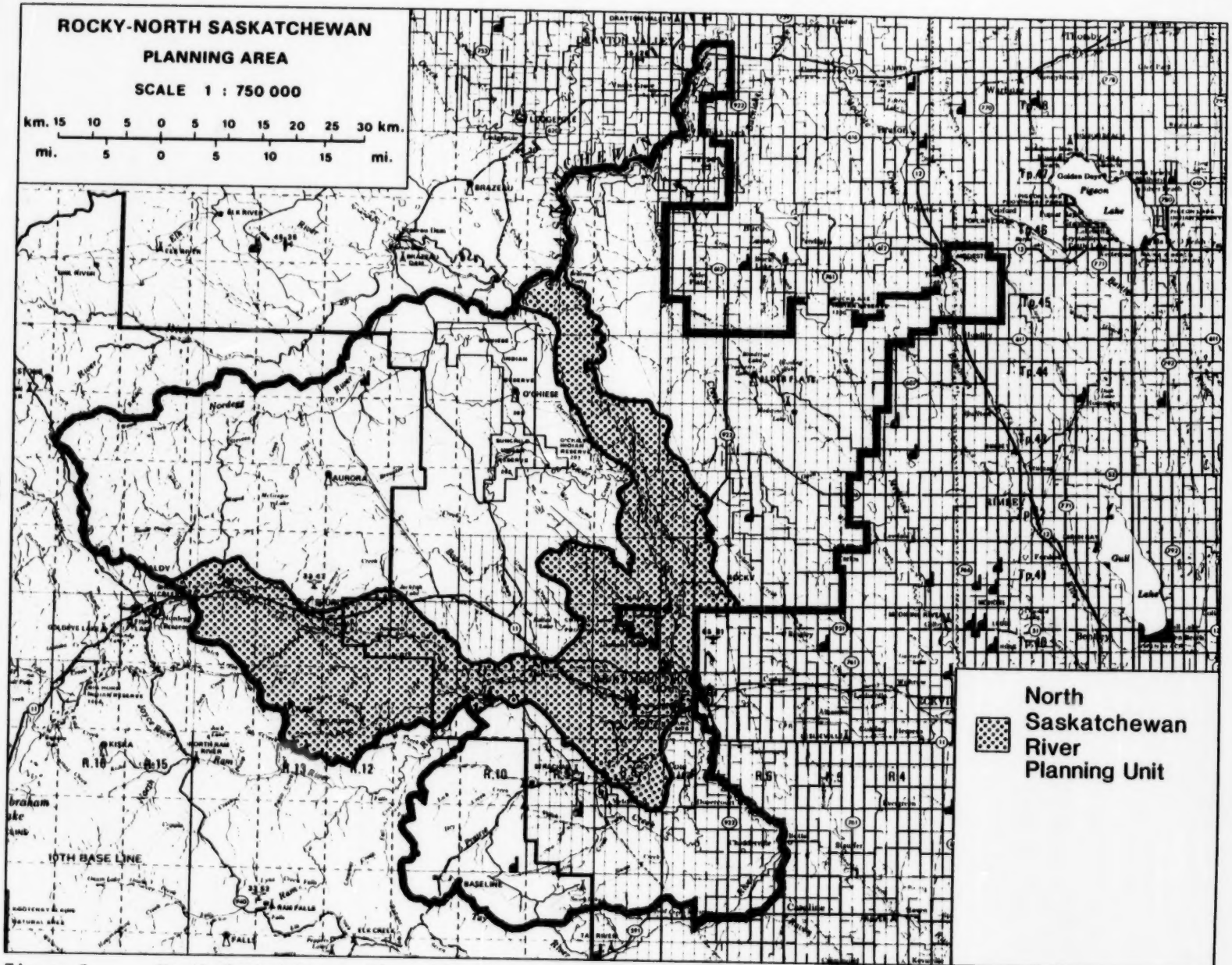

Figure 5. North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit

6.2.2 Resource Management Objectives for the North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit

The general intent for resource management in the North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit is:

To allow utilization of the full range of available resources with emphasis on petroleum and natural gas exploration and development, timber harvesting and water-based recreation along the North Saskatchewan River corridor, while recognizing watershed and other environmental considerations.

The broad resource management objectives, which are stated in Section 5, apply throughout the entire planning area. For brevity, they have not been repeated with those resource management objectives which are specific to the North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit.

Resource management objectives have the potential to conflict in many ways depending upon where, when and how they are expected to be achieved. No priority is intended or implied by the order of the following resource management objectives.

Water and Watershed Resources

To maintain water quality by:

(a) minimizing crossings of water courses by linear developments,

b) minimizing the occurrence and negative impacts of those summer land use activities which result in surface disturbance and

c) more intensive management of the watersheds of this planning unit.

Timber Resources

To provide an optimum Long Term Allowable cut on a sustained yield basis for that portion of the planning unit which is within the boundaries of the proposed Brazeau Timber Development Area.

To provide for liquidation cutting of mature timber resources on public lands in the White Area as demand warrants.

Wildlife Resources

To minimize deer, elk and wolf depredation problems in intensive agricultural areas while increasing recreational use of these species.

To minimize black bear depredation problems without reducing sport hunting opportunities or bear populations.

To introduce or enhance river otter populations along the North Saskatchewan River.

To protect the colony of blue herons located near Rocky Mountain House.

To increase recreational use of bighorn sheep in the Nordegg area.

To maintain an elk herd in the vicinity of the Nordegg townsite for non-consumptive enjoyment.

To improve the quality of bighorn sheep habitat on Ram Mountain through the use of controlled burns.

To establish a viable population of mountain goats on the Brazeau Range.

To protect wildlife habitat by minimizing the detrimental effects of rural subdivisions and coal extraction on habitat.

To minimize competition for forage between feral horses and elk by regulating horse populations.

Fisheries Resources

To protect fish populations in the North Saskatchewan River by minimizing the negative effects of river fluctuations.

To protect the following habitat areas which are critical for specific fish populations:

(a) spawning, rearing and overwintering areas for mountain whitefish in the North Saskatchewan River,

(b) spawning and rearing areas for brook trout, brown trout and mountain whitefish on Shunda Creek and

(c) spawning and rearing areas for brown trout on Trout and Lundine Creeks.

To maintain or establish fish populations for recreational angling by:

(a) maintaining or enhancing fisheries production in Twin Lakes and the Fish and Game Association Fish Pond near Rocky Mountain House,

(b) stocking Cow Creek with brown trout and

(c) stocking suitable water bodies as they are identified or developed.

Recreational Resources

To maintain the high quality of scenic recreational resources along the North Saskatchewan River corridor.

To maintain and/or increase opportunities for water-based recreation along the North Saskatchewan River. This would include development of staging areas for water traversing activities and overnight camping sites along the river.

Forage Resources

To maintain the level of natural forage production presently available for grazing by domestic livestock and wildlife.

To increase the level of improved forage production where potential and demand exist.

Ecological Resources

To protect, as appropriate, ecological resources which have been identified at the following general locations:

(a) Mill Island in the North Saskatchewan River to the east of Crimson Lake Provincial Park,

(b) northwest of Cow Lake,

(c) near Rocky Mountain House,

(d) along the North Saskatchewan River at the Phoenix site and

(e) south of Crimson Lake Provincial Park.

6.2.3 Zoning for the North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit

The existing and revised zoning configurations for the North Saskatchewan River Planning Unit can be seen on the zoning maps for the entire Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area (map pocket). The revised configuration should allow achievement of the stated resource

management objectives to varying degrees. The rationale and locations for the zones are:

Critical Wildlife - in the following locations for the indicated reasons:

(a) riparian areas along the North Saskatchewan River and associated tributaries to protect ungulate winter range and a migratory corridor,

(b) riparian areas along Rough, Meadow, Lewis, Trout, Lundine, Dizzy, Jackfish, Sunset, Shunda and Deep Creeks to protect ungulate winter habitat,

(c) sections of Shunda, Trout and Lundine Creeks to protect spawning and rearing areas for specific fish populations,

(d) SW 25 - Tp 39 - R8 W5 to protect a blue heron colony,

(e) organic areas to the north and west of Crimson Lake Provincial Park, to protect ungulate winter range and

(f) upper slopes of the Brazeau Range to protect bighorn sheep and mountain goat populations and habitat.

Special Use - established Natural Areas in Tp 39 and 40 - R7 and Tp 38 - R8, both W5, to recognize the unique management requirement of these areas and to allow for protection of ecological resources.

General Recreation - the main area and Twin Lakes portion of Crimson Lake Provincial Park to provide a focus for dispersed outdoor recreation.

Multiple Use - the portions of the planning unit which are outside of Critical Wildlife, Special Use, General Recreation, Agriculture, Industrial and Facility zones to allow for a broad range of resource utilization.

Agriculture - scattered parcels in the east central portion of the planning unit to allow improved grazing and cultivation.

Industrial - in the following locations for the indicated reasons:

(a) NW 23 - Tp 39 - R8 - W5 to accommodate an existing gas processing plant.

(b) NW 2 - Tp 41 - R14 - W5 to accommodate the sawmill at Harlech.

Facility - in the south east corner of Crimson Lake Provincial Park to accommodate a cottage subdivision, intensive day-use recreational areas, a campground and group camps.

6.3 Prairie Creek Planning Unit

6.3.1 General Description of the Prairie Creek Planning Unit

The Prairie Creek Planning Unit is an area of 1,090 km^2 in the southern portion of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area (see Figure 5). Major water bodies in the unit are the Clearwater River, Vetch, Swan, Base Line and Prairie Creeks and Swan, Strubel and Mitchell Lakes. The Prairie Creek Planning Unit includes the Boreal Foothills ecoregion in the eastern portion and the Boreal Uplands ecoregion to the west. There are also small patches of the Sub-alpine ecoregion along the western edge of the planning unit. Forest cover ranges from mixedwood stands dominated by aspen in the east to mainly coniferous forest in the west. The Sub-alpine ecoregion is generally characterized by low shrub grassland and open coniferous forest. Major physiographic features are the Crimson Lake Plain, Shunda Benchland and the Rocky Mountain Foothills.

6.3.2 Resource Management Objectives for the Prairie Creek Planning Unit

The general intent for resource management in the Prairie Creek Planning Unit is:

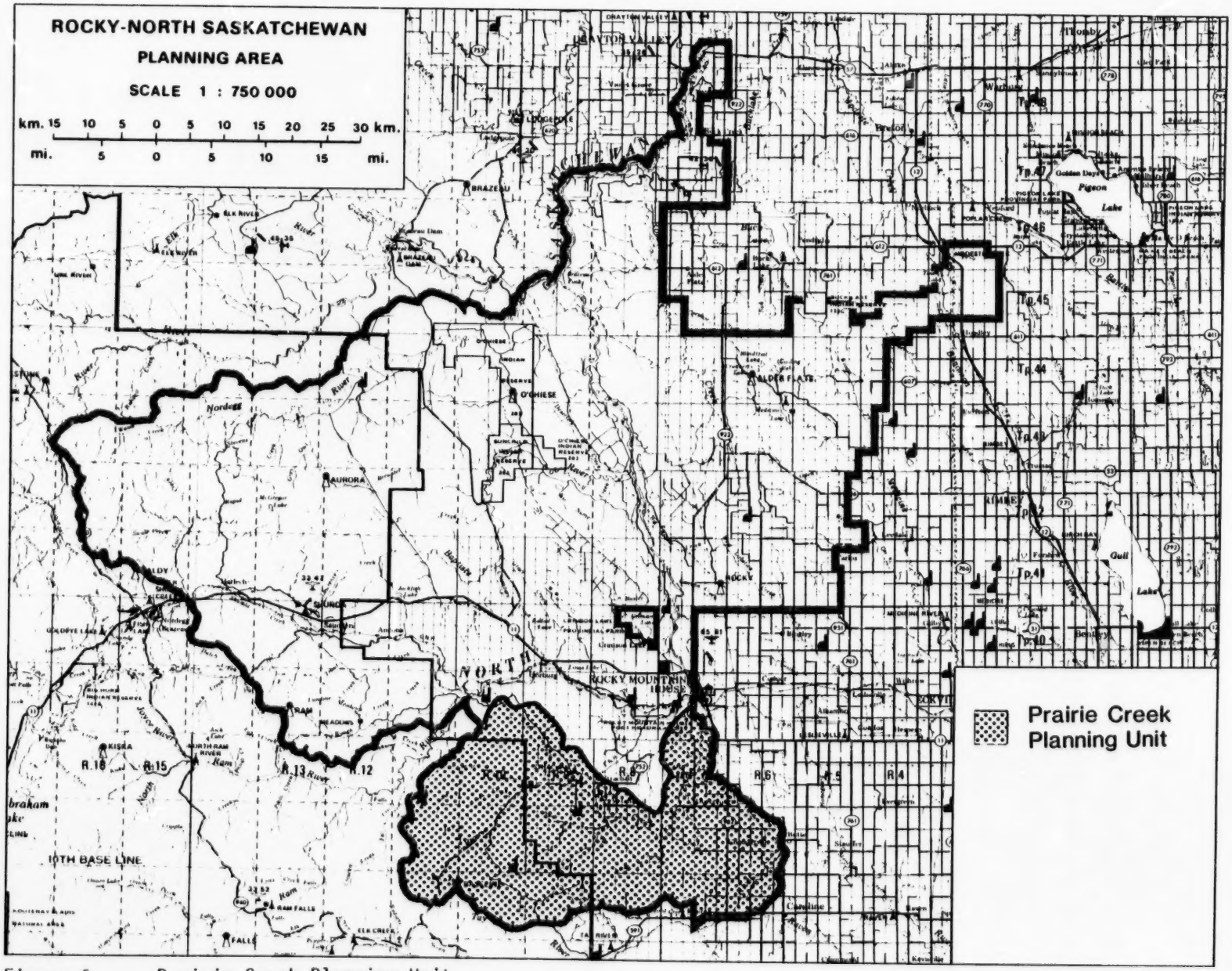
ROCKY-NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
PLANNING AREA
SCALE 1 : 750 000
km. 15 10 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 km.
mi. 5 0 5 10 15 mi.
Prairie Creek
Planning Unit

Figure 6. Prairie Creek Planning Unit

To allow utilization of the full range of available resources while recognizing watershed and other environmental considerations. The emphasis will be on petroleum and natural gas exploration and development and timber harvesting throughout the planning unit and outdoor recreation along Prairie Creek.

The broad resource management objectives, which are stated in Section 5, apply throughout the entire planning area. For brevity, they have not been repeated with those resource management objectives which are specific to the Prairie Creek Planning Unit.

Resource management objectives have the potential to conflict in many ways depending upon where, when and how they are expected to be achieved. No priority is intended or implied by the order of the following resource management objectives.

Water Resources

To maintain water quality by:

(a) reducing or maintaining peak flow levels and

(b) minimizing the occurrence and negative impacts of those summer land use activities which result in surface disturbance.

To actively monitor water resources.

Timber Resources

To provide an optimum Long Term Allowable cut on a sustained yield basis for that portion of the planning unit which is within the boundaries of the proposed Brazeau Timber Development Area.

To provide for liquidation cutting of mature timber resources on public lands in the White Area as demand warrants.

Wildlife Resources

To minimize wildlife depredation problems in intensive agricultural areas.

To minimize competition for forage between feral horses and elk by regulating horse populations.

Fisheries Resources

To maintain or enhance the fisheries production potential of the following lakes:

(a) Swan Lake,

(b) Strubel Lake,

(c) Mitchell Lake and

(d) Rat Lake.

To protect fish populations in Prairie Creek and associated tributaries outside of the Forest Reserve by minimizing negative impacts associated with agricultural activities.

To protect the following habitat areas which are critical for specific fish populations:

(a) spawning area for lake trout at the Swan Creek outlet of Swan Lake,

(b) spawning, rearing and overwintering areas for brook and brown trout on Swan Creek below Swan Lake and on Lick Creek and

(c) spawning and rearing areas for brook trout on Moosewallow, Baseline, Vetch, Skunk and Cold Creeks and on Prairie Creek and associated tributaries.

Recreational Resources

To provide a range of opportunities for outdoor recreation throughout the planning unit with emphasis along Prairie Creek.

Forage Resources

To maintain the level of natural forage production presently available for grazing by domestic livestock and ungulates.

To increase the level of improved forage production where potential and demand exist.

Ecological Resources

To protect ecological resources which have been identified in the Chedderville area.

6.3.3 Zoning for the Prairie Creek Planning Unit

The existing and revised zoning configurations for the Prairie Creek Planning Unit can be seen on the zoning maps for the entire Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area (map pocket). The revised configuration should allow achievement of the stated resource management objectives to varying degrees. The rationale and locations for the zones are:

Critical Wildlife - in the following locations for the indicated reasons:

(a) riparian areas along and selected reaches of Base Line, Swan, Prairie, Vetch, Two Dam, Dry, Lick, Cold, Skunk, North Prairie and South Prairie Creeks and the Clearwater River to protect ungulate winter range and critical habitat for fish populations and

(b) Swan, Mitchell and Strubel Lakes to protect fish populations and habitat.

Special Use - established Natural Areas in Tp 36 and 37 - R6 - W5, to recognize the unique management requirements of these areas and allow for protection of ecological resources.

General Recreation - in the following locations for the indicated reasons:

(a) the D-reservation on the north shore of Swan Lake to accommodate the existing campground and

(b) along Prairie Creek within the Forest Reserve to accommodate outdoor recreation facilities including a group camp, a campground and interpretive hiking trails.

Multiple Use - the portions of the planning unit which are outside of Critical Wildlife, Special Use, General Recreation, Agriculture and Industrial zones to allow for a broad range of resource utilization.

Agriculture - a few scattered parcels in the eastern portion of the planning unit to allow improved grazing or cultivation.

Industrial - in the following locations for the indicated reasons:

(a) NW 35 - Tp 37 - R9 - W5 to accommodate a gas processing plant and

(b) S 1/2 22 and LSD 3 of Tp 37 - R10 and NW 35 in Tp 36 R10, all W5, to accommodate the Strachan gas processing plant.

6.4 Nordegg - Baptiste River Planning Unit

6.4.1 General Description of the Nordegg - Baptiste Planning Unit

The Nordegg-Baptiste River Planning Unit is an area of 2550 km^2 in the northwestern sector of the Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area (see Figure 6). The main water bodies found within this unit are the Baptiste and Nordegg Rivers, Colt, Swale, Deserters, Chambers and Brewster Creeks and Jackfish and McGregor Lakes. The Nordegg-Baptiste River Planning Unit includes the Boreal Foothills ecoregion in the east and the Boreal Uplands ecoregion in the west with small areas of the Sub-alpine ecoregion along the western boundary. Forest cover grades from mixedwood with aspen dominating to coniferous forest with lodgepole pine dominating as one moves west. The Sub-alpine ecoregion is characterized by low shrub grassland and open coniferous forest. Major physiographic features are the O'Chiese Upland, the Shunda Benchland and the Rocky Mountain Foothills.

6.4.2 Resource Management Objectives for the Nordegg - Baptiste Planning Unit

The general intent for resource management in the Nordegg-Baptiste River Planning Unit is:

> To allow utilization of the full range of available resources with emphasis on petroleum and natural gas exploration and development, timber harvesting and extensive dispersed recreation, while recognizing watershed and other environmental considerations.

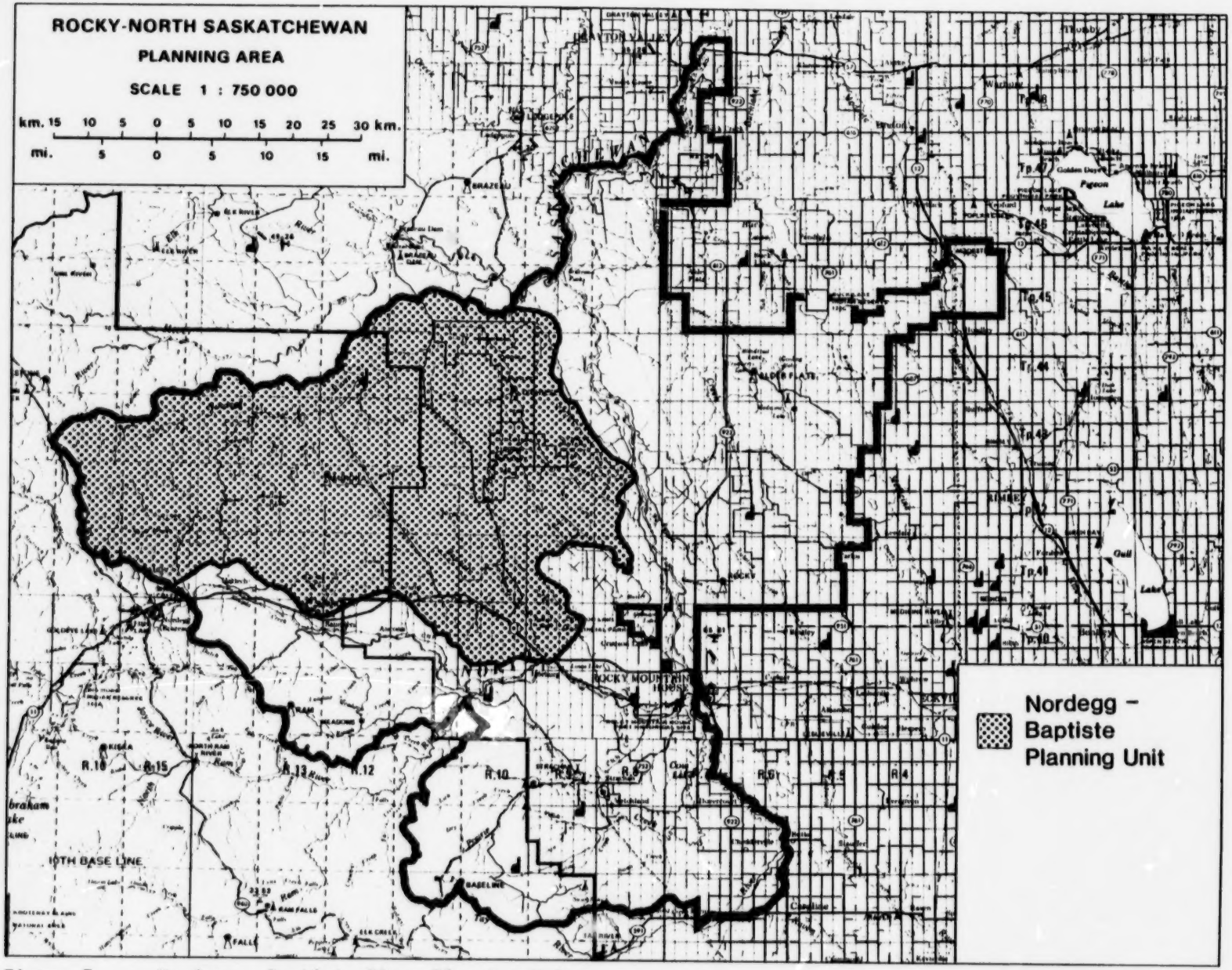
ROCKY-NORTH SASKATCHEWAN
PLANNING AREA
SCALE 1 : 750 000
km. 15 10 5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 km.
mi. 5 0 5 10 15 mi.
Nordegg - Baptiste Planning Unit
10TH BASE LINE

Figure 7. Nordegg - Baptiste River Planning Unit

The broad resource management objectives, which are stated in Section 5, apply throughout the entire planning area. For brevity, they have not been repeated with those resource management objectives which are specific to the Nordegg-Baptiste River Planning Unit.

Resource management objectives have the potential to conflict in many ways depending upon where, when and how they are expected to be achieved. No priority is intended or implied by the order of the following resource management objectives.

Water Resources

To maintain water quality by:

(a) minimizing the occurrence and negative impacts of those summer land use activities which result in surface disturbance,

(b) minimizing the negative impacts of linear developments in recognition of the high density of streams in this planning unit,

(c) minimizing disturbance of erosion prone areas,

(d) reducing peak flow levels and

(e) monitoring and controlling vegetation removal.

To actively monitor water quality and quantity.

Timber Resources

To increase sustained yield harvesting of coniferous timber resources.

To provide an optimum Long Term Allowable cut on a sustained yield basis for that portion of the planning unit which is within the boundaries of the proposed Brazeau Timber Development Area.

Wildlife Resources

To increase sport hunting of black bears and upland game birds.

To maintain the wolf population in the McGregor Lake area.

To protect ungulate populations by minimizing the negative impacts associated with increased vehicular access.

Fisheries Resources

To protect the following habitat areas which are critical for specific fish populations:

(a) spawning, overwintering and rearing areas for bull trout and mountain whitefish on the upper Nordegg River; Wawa, Rapid, and Grey Owl Creeks and on tributaries to the Nordegg River at NE 29 - Tp 42 - R - 15; NW 19 - Tp 42 - R15, NE 13 - Tp 42 - R16 and SE 12 - Tp 42 - R16, all W5,

(b) spawning and rearing areas for bull trout, brook trout and mountain whitefish on Colt and Swale Creeks,

(c) spawning and rearing areas for bull trout on the Baptiste River above McGregor Lake,

(d) spawning, rearing and overwintering areas for brook trout and mountain whitefish on the lower Baptiste River and Lawrence Creek and

(e) spawning and rearing areas for walleye and pike on the lower Nordegg River.

To maintain or enhance the fisheries production potential of the following lakes:

(a) McGregor Lake,

(b) Doctors Lake and

(c) Jackfish Lake.

To maintain and/or increase recreational fishing opportunities by stocking brook trout in Grey Owl, Rapid and Stevens Creeks.

Recreational Resources

To provide opportunities for extensive dispersed forms of outdoor recreation, in particular, year-round mechanized and non-mechanized traversing activities.

To maintain scenic recreational resources and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation in the following areas:

(a) adjacent to the Forestry Trunk Road and

(b) along access corridors and at focal points adjacent to Highway 11.

Forage Resources

To provide for continued grazing of forage resources by domestic livestock and ungulates.

Ecological Resources

To protect, as appropriate, ecological resources which have been identified in the McGregor Lake area.

6.4.3 Zoning for the Nordegg-Baptiste River Planning Unit

The existing and revised zoning configurations for the Nordegg-Baptiste River Planning Unit can be seen on the zoning maps for the entire Rocky-North Saskatchewan Planning Area (map pocket). The revised configuration should allow achievement of the stated resource management objectives to varying degrees. The rationale and locations for the zones are:

Critical Wildlife - in the following locations for the indicated reasons:

(a) riparian and organic areas along, and certain reaches of, Deserters, No Name, Swale, Colt, Rapid, unnamed creek in Tp 43 and 44 - R11 - W5, Wawa, Stevens, Grey Owl, Lawrence, Chambers, Grace, Brewster, Sylvester and Jackfish Creeks and the Baptiste and Nordegg Rivers to protect ungulate winter habitat and critical habitat for fish populations and

(b) McGregor and Jackfish Lakes and tributaries to the Baptiste River in Tp 41 - R12; Tp 41 - R11 and Tp42 - R13, all W5, to protect fish populations and habitat.

Special Use - to recognize the unique legislative status of the O'Chiese Indian Reserve 203 and the Sunchild Indian Reserve 202.

General Recreation - the D-reservation at the Chambers Creek Recreation Area to provide a focus for winter and summer recreational activities including a group camp, campground and trailhead.

Multiple Use - the portions of the planning unit which are outside of Critical Wildlife, Special Use, General Recreation and Industrial zones to allow for a broad range of resource utilization.

Industrial - in SW 10 - Tp 44 - R12 W5 to accommodate the existing large capacity gas processing plant.

7. CONCLUSION

As an intermediate document, the Resource Management Policy serves as an interim statement of progress towards the final plan. The resource management objectives and zoning, contained in the Resource Management Policy, provide direction to the Rocky-North Saskatchewan team for use in the development of the draft plan which is the next stage of the planning process. The draft plan will include further refinement of the resource management objectives, guidelines for resource management to resolve identified conflicts and a statement of implementation procedures for the plan.